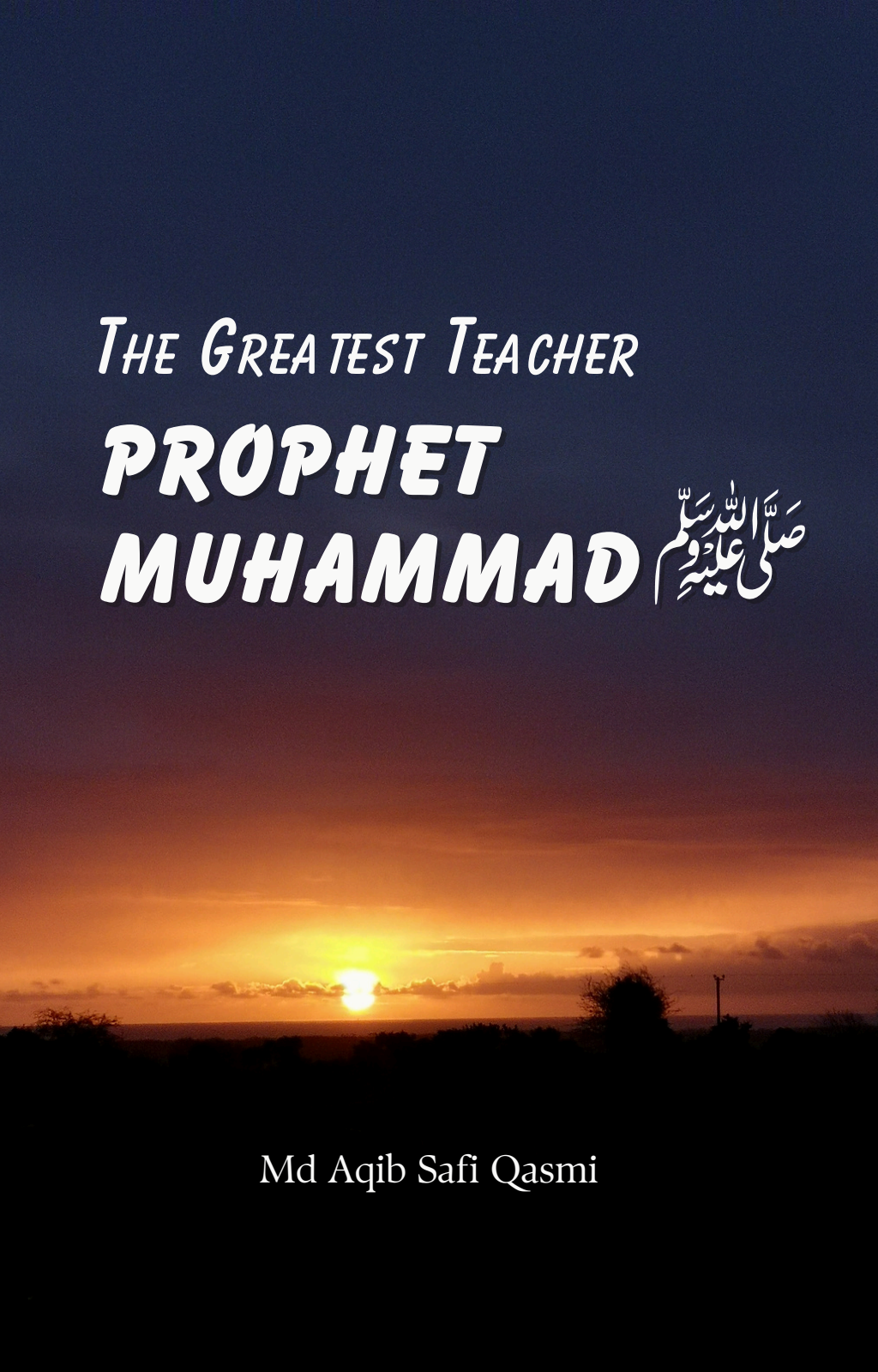
The Greatest Teacher
PROPHET MUHAMMAD ﷺ
Md Aqib Safi Qasmi

# Foreword

On Teacher's Day 2024, I prepared a speech for my students. This speech was not just about teaching. It was about the greatest teacher of all time, our beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

His life is full of lessons for both teachers and students, enriched with lessons of patience, kindness, wisdom, and compassion. Every word he spoke, every action he took, carried guidance that continues to inspire hearts even today.

This booklet is a humble effort to capture a glimpse of those qualities. I pray it benefits teachers in shaping lives with love and students in seeking knowledge with sincerity.

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Published By: english_with_aqib

https://www.instagram.com/english_with_aqib?igsh=MTdpajg0dGtzY2Fydw==

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# Introduction

**Speaker 1**
Today, my friends and I stand here to talk about:

- The best teacher we have ever had,
- The most incredible teacher who has ever walked on the face of the earth.
- The most revolutionary teacher who has changed the course of human history.

Yes, I am talking about none other than our beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Our beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was a social reformer, moral guide, compassionate companion, proud father, brilliant teacher, just ruler, wise judge, visionary leader, devoted husband, and sincere well-wisher of humanity.

He fulfilled every role with absolute perfection. He is unmatched and unparalleled in all his roles. Today, we reflect on his role as a teacher.

Our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ used to consider himself a teacher. Once upon a time, he came out of his house. He saw two groups of people.

- One group was busy reading the Quran and making dua,
- And the other group was busy teaching and learning knowledge.

Our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ joined the second group. A group where people were busy teaching and learning the knowledge, and he ﷺ said, "I have been sent as a teacher." *(Ibn Majah: 229)*

In another hadees, he ﷺ said, "Allah sent me as a teacher." *(Muslim: 1478)*

Our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, with his

- Incomparable character,
- Impeccable teaching methods,
- And immaculate words,

brought a complete transformation.

He was sent to the people who were worse than beasts.
The people who used to bury their own daughters.
The people who used to wage wars on trivial issues.

There was

- no justice,
- no humanity,
- no mercy left in them.

THE BEST TEACHER

It was indeed, without a shadow of doubt, the darkest time and the bleakest age in human history. Our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was sent to those people, and within a short span, within a few years:

- He ﷺ changed them completely.
- He ﷺ reformed them thoroughly
- He ﷺ made them shining stars, and
- He ﷺ made them Sahaba R.A.

Now, my friends want to tell you some of his effective teaching methods that brought unbelievable transformation.

We expect undivided attention from you all. Let's start, shall we?

# Explaining with examples

**Speaker 2**
Examples make learning and understanding quite easy. Our Prophet Muhammad ﷺused to explain concepts with practical examples.

Once, he ﷺcompared a good friend and a bad friend. He said,

- “A good and pious friend is like a person who is carrying a musk.
- A bad and evil friend is like an iron-smith who is blowing a pair of bellows.” *(Bukhari: 2101)*

In this hadees, a good friend is likened to a carrier of musk. Musk is the most fragrant perfume; it has a delightful smell.

Therefore, the hadith further mentions that the person who is carrying musk or fragrance will either give you some perfume as a gift, or you will buy some perfume from him, or (at least)you will smell the scent.

In all scenarios, it benefits you.

On the other hand, a bad friend is compared to an iron-smith who is blowing a pair of bellows.

A pair of bellows is an instrument. People use it to blow air and ignite big fires.

The hadith further elaborates that when air is blown into the fire, small sparks fall on us, and those sparks burn our clothes. Besides, it has a very bad smell.

Therefore, when we are in the company of a blacksmith with a pair of bellows, we gain nothing.

This is how beautifully, simply, and practically our Prophet Muhammad ﷺexplained to us the impact of a good and bad friend.

Remember!
From a good friend, we gain benefit, positivity, and fragrance; whereas from a bad friend, we experience loss, harm, and negativity.

One more example in this regard;

Our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is the last prophet. There is no Nabi or Rasool after him. He is the seal of prophethood. He explained this concept with an example.

“A man has built a nice and beautiful house. (It is perfect. It is amazing) But in one corner, there is no brick. The people walk around the house. They admire the house. But they say, 'We wish a brick were here in its place at this corner. (This would make the building complete and flawless) The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said, “Therefore, I am that brick, and I am the last of the Prophets.” *(Bukhari: 3535)*

This means all the bricks in that beautiful building are all the other prophets. They all came. Only one brick was left unattached. That last brick was our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, who came into this world and completed the building of the Ambiya.

Now, there is no Nabi or Rasool after him.

# Engaging students

**Speaker 3**
Our prophetMuhammed ﷺ not only used to explain to students with examples, but he also used to engage students by asking them questions.

Once, he ﷺ asked his Sahaba,
“If there was a river at the door of any one of you and he took a bath in it five times a day, would you notice any dirt on him?”

The Sahaba said, “No, we will not find a trace of dirt (meaning, he will be very clean).”
The Prophet (ﷺ) said, “That is the example of the five prayers with which Allah forgives the sins.”
*(Bukhari: 528)*

This means that if someone offers 5 times namaz daily, he will be as clean from the sins as a man who takes a bath five times a day.

In this hadees, not only did our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ ask a question to grab the attention of his companions, but he also made them understand with an easy example.

I will give you one more example. From this, you will know how our prophet ﷺ used to ask questions, engage the students, and then, he used to teach them.

Once, our Prophet Muhammedﷺasked his people,

“Who among you loves the wealth of his heir more than his own wealth?” (Means “Do you love your wealth more, or do you love the wealth of your heirs more?)

The Companions said: “O Messenger of Allah! Everybody loves their own wealth more.” The Messenger of Allah (SAWS) said: “His wealth is only that wealth which he has sent forward (Means he did charity), but the remaining wealth belongs to his heir.” *(Bukhari: 6442)*. It is not his wealth.

Here also, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ first asked a question, grabbed the attention, and then explained the concept of wealth in an easy manner.

Most of us relish maintaining a bank balance, we take pride in building houses, and we enjoy buying land and property. But we need to ponder and think,

- Are all these properties and wealth truly ours?
- Are we the real owners of this empire we build?

No, from this hadees, we learned that.

- The wealth and money that we spend on charity are truly ours
- The wealth and money that we spend to propagate Islam are truly ours
- The wealth and money that we spend on helping the needy and poor are truly ours
- And... the wealth and money we leave in this world when we die are not ours.

It is the wealth of our heirs.

# Answering the questions

**Speaker 4**
Some teachers dislike questions. When students ask them questions, they get irritated. But good teachers don't get angry with questions. When we look at the seerat, we understand that whenever someone asked questions to our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, he would give answers patiently. He wouldn't get angry with good questions.

- Hazrat Abdullah bin Mas'ood r.a once asked the Prophet ﷺ, "Which action is the most beloved to Allah?"
- He ﷺ replied, "Offering the prayers at their times."
- ·Hazrat Abdullah bin Mas'ood r.a asked, "What is the next best action after this?"
- He ﷺ replied ﷺ, "Being good and dutiful to your parents."
- Hazrat Abdullah bin Mas'ood r.a. again asked, "What is the next best action after this?"
- He ﷺ replied, "Participating in Jihad fi Sabeel lillah."

The conversation ended here.
Hazrat Abdullah bin Mas'ood r.a. further said to his people, "I asked only that much, and if I had asked more, the Prophet (ﷺ) would have told me more."
*(Bukhari: 527)*

There is a hadees,

- The Prophet (ﷺ) said, “Sadaqa is compulsory for all Muslims.”
- People said, “What if one has nothing? (How can he do Sadaqah?)”
- Prophet Muhammad ﷺsaid, “He should work with his hands. He should benefit himself and give in charity.”
- They said, “What if he cannot work or if he does not work?”
- Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said, “Then he should help the oppressed and unhappy person. (He can help by word or action or by both).”
- They said, “What if he does not do it?”
- Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said, “Then he should call people toward good actions, or reasonable actions.”
- They said, “What if he does not do that?”.
- He ﷺ said, “Then he should avoid doing evil because that will be considered for him as a Sadaqa (charity).” *(Bukhari: 6021)*

See how many questions people asked him.
Never once did he get angry,
Never once did he show frustration.
Rather, he was very calm and gave all the answers.

This is a quality that every teacher must possess.

In some cases, our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ appreciated questions and praised the one who asked them.

For instance, once upon a time, during the journey of the Prophet ﷺ, a Bedouin (a villager) appeared before him. He caught hold of the nose string of his she-camel and then said, O Messenger of Allah, inform me about that which takes me near to Paradise and draws me away from the hellfire.

The Prophet (ﷺ) heard his question. He became pleased with the question. He was so happy with the question that he asked the Bedouin to repeat his question. The Bedouin repeated his question, “Inform me about that which takes me near to Paradise and draws me away from the hellfire”.

Our Prophet Muhammad ﷺanswered, “The deed which can draw you near to Paradise and take you away from Hell is that you worship Allah and don’t do shirk, establish prayer and pay Zakat, and do good to your relatives.” *(Muslim: 14)*

Look at the patience of the Prophet of Allah. So simple and cooperative was he that someone asked him a question in the middle of the road, and he patiently answered him.

# Caring for the students

**Speaker 5**
Our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ used to care for his students a lot.

- If someone was absent, he used to ask about him.
- If someone was hungry, he used to feed him.
- If someone was in need, he used to fulfill their need.

In masjid nabwi, there was a group of Sahaba who were mainly students. They were called Ashaab e Suffa. They had no families, no money, and nobody to depend upon. Whenever an object of charity was brought to the Prophet, he would send it to them and would not take anything from the charity. And whenever any present was given to him, he used to send some for them and take some of it for himself.

For instance, once upon a time, Hazrat Abu Huraira was very hungry. He was starving. Nobody could understand his problem. Our Prophet Muhammedﷺ understood his problem. He took him home. There was some milk at home. He told Abu Huraira r.a. to call all the students from Suffa. They all came. Our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ gave all of them the milk. *(Bukhari: 6452)*

Because of his Mojiza, that one glass of milk was sufficient for all of them.

He was very lenient with his students. He would teach with love, care, and patience without showing anger and frustration.

Hazrat Muawiya r.a. said, “Once I was offering namaz with our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. A person sneezed, and in the state of namaz, and I said, Yarhamukallah. (It is not permissible to say Yarhamu kallah in Namaz, but Hazrat Muawiya didn’t know it)

Hazrat Muawiya r.a. said, “People started staring at me. I asked them, “Why are you looking at me so bitterly?” They tried to silence me. I didn’t understand anything and I kept mum. When the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ finished his namaz, he called me.

Hazrat Muawiya r.a. further said, “May my parents be sacrificed for him, I have never seen any teacher better than him, neither before him nor after him. I swear to Allah, Hazrat Muhammed ﷺ didn’t scold me, he didn’t hit me, nor did he show any anger to me.”

He said, “It is not appropriate to speak in namaz. Namaz has only Qira’at Takbir, and Tasbih”. *(Muslim: 537)*

Can this world present any teacher as caring, as benevolent, as cooperative, as loving, as magnanimous, as patient as our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ?
**Never!**